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ACTION PA-02

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 DIC-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 MSC-01 IO-19 NEA-04 NSCE-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 AMAD-01 TRSE-00 PM-10 EAP-00
OMB-01 INRE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01
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O 151542Z AUG 89
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4363
INFO USIA WASHDC 1225
EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 22212

DEPT PASS PA FOR A/S TUTWILER AND EUR/SOV

USIA FOR VOA AND EU

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, SCOM, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 15, 1989

REF: MOSCOW 22086 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY

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1. AT THE DAILY PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 15, ACTING MFA

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SPOKESMAN YURIY GREMITSKIKH INTRODUCED SOVIET NUCLEAR TESTING TALKS (NTT) NEGOTIATOR I.F. PALENYKH, WHO GAVE A READOUT ON THE JUST-CONCLUDED FOURTH ROUND OF NTT TALKS IN GENEVA. IN ADDITION, GREMITSKI :

-- CONDEMNED DESECRATION BY "HOOLIGANS" OF THE GRAVES OF SOVIET WWII SOLDIERS IN POLAND, BUT SAID NOTHING ABOUT ON-GOING POLITICAL TURMOIL IN THAT COUNTRY;

-- ANNOUNCED THAT RELATIVES OF RAOUL WALLENBERG WILL ARRIVE IN THE USSR SOON TO EXAMINE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO HIS DEATH IN 1946;

-- ASSAILED A RECENT VOA PIECE ON ESTONIA;

-- SPOKE ON AFGHAN DEVELOPMENTS, NOTING THE RECENT CAPTURE OF "A NUMBER" OF FOREIGNERS IN THAT COUNTRY WHO WILL SHORTLY BE PRESENTED TO THE PRESS;

-- ANNOUNCED UPCOMING SOVIET-JAPANESE CONSULTATIONS PREPARATORY TO FOREIGN MINISTER TALKS AT THE UNGA IN LATE SEPTEMBER; AND

-- COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON U.S.-SOVIET EXPERTS TALKS ON CENTRAL AMERICA.

NUCLEAR TESTING TALKS
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2. READING FROM A PREPARED TEXT, AMBASSADOR PALENYKH NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD HIGH HOPES AT THE START OF THE 4TH ROUND OF NTT TALKS. DESPITE FAILING TO REACH A

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FINAL AGREEMENT, PALENYKH SAID, BOTH SIDES CONDUCTED USEFUL AND SUBSTANTIAL WORK. THE SOVIETS MADE IMPORTANT AND SERIOUS STEPS TO FACILITATE AN AGREEMENT, WHICH THE U.S. SIDE HAD NOTED. HE REPEATED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR VERIFICATION BY ON-SITE INSPECTION, SEISMIC METHODS AND CORTEX, AND SAID THE U.S. HAD UNDERTAKEN TO STUDY THIS PROPOSAL SERIOUSLY. PALENYKH WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT TALKS WOULD SOON CONCLUDE SO AN AGREEMENT COULD BE SUBMITTED FOR RATIFICATION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. HE EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION WHEN

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REPORTERS DECLINED TO ASK QUESTIONS ON THE NTT TALKS.

GRAVE DESECRATION IN POLAND
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3. GREMITSKIKH CONDEMNED AS A "BARBARIC ACT" THE DESECRATION OF SOVIET WWII SOLDIERS' GRAVES IN SOPOT, POLAND. HE NOTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 200,000 SOVIET SOLDIERS LOST THEIR LIVES LIBERATING POLAND FROM THE NAZIS AND OBSERVED THAT IN ANY "CIVILIZED SOCIETY", GRAVES ARE PLACES THAT ARE "UNTOUCHABLE". GREMITSKIKH SAID HE DID NOT EQUATE THE "HOOLIGANS" WHO PERPETRATED THIS ACT ("DEGRADED PEOPLE WHO WERE ALSO DIRECTED BY CERTAIN FORCES") WITH THE ENTIRE POLISH NATION AND RESTATED THE USSR'S INTENTION TO FURTHER DEVELOP FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH POLAND. HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT ON-GOING POLITICAL TURMOIL IN THAT COUNTRY.

WALLENBERG
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4. GREMITSKIKH ANNOUNCED THAT RELATIVES OF RAOUL WALLENBERG WILL SOON "BE ABLE TO VISIT THE USSR AND WILL PROBABLY ALSO HAVE THE POSSIBILITY" TO EXAMINE

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"ALL" MATERIALS ON THE WALLENBERG CASE, INCLUDING THOSE
CONCERNING HIS DEATH IN 1946. HE DECLINED TO ANSWER A
QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE RELATIVES HAVE BEEN INVITED
OR ARE COMING ON THEIR OWN, DID NOT KNOW WHO THE SOVIET
HOST WILL BE AND UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION,
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"PERHAPS TOMORROW".

ASSAILING VOA ON ESTONIA

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5. GREMITSKIKH READ FROM WHAT HE CALLED A RECENT VOA COMMENTARY ON ESTONIA. THE PURPORTED COMMENTARY DEFENDED THE ESTONIAN SUPREME SOVIET'S MOVE TO DENY THE FRANCHISE TO RECENT IMMIGRANTS BY SUGGESTING THAT ALL COUNTRIES LIMIT IMMIGRATION AND DENY IMMIGRANTS THE RIGHT TO VOTE. SUCH "INFORMATION" BY VOA WAS UNHELPFUL. GREMITSKIKH POINTED OUT THAT RUSSIANS LIVING IN ESTONIA ARE SOVIET CITIZENS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER NATIONALITY. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

AFGHANISTAN

6. GREMITSKIKH NOTED THE ARRIVAL IN KABUL OF A FOREIGN PRESS GROUP WHICH WILL BE MEETING WITH NAJIBULLAH, DISCUSSING THE SIX-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN, TRAVELLING AROUND THE COUNTRY, AND ATTENDING INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS. GREMITSKIKH NOTED A RECENT AFGHAN STATEMENT THAT APPROXIMATELY 300 MISSILES HAD BEEN FIRED AT KABUL KILLING 186 AND WOUNDING 180. HOWEVER, HE MAINTAINED, THE AFGHAN MILITARY IS IN CONTROL. A "NUMBER" OF FOREIGNERS WERE CAPTURED IN RECENT FIGHTING AND WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE PRESS SOON. HE SAID THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT VIEWS REBELS' "MEANS OF CONDUCTING WAR AS AN ACT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM."

SOVIET-JAPANESE CONSULTATIONS
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7. GREMITSKIKH ANNOUNCED THAT THE HEAD OF THE JAPANESE MFA DEPARTMENT ON UNITED NATIONS' AFFAIRS WILL HOLD CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW AUGUST 20-23 ON THE UPCOMING UNGA. ON SEPTEMBER 4, SOVIET AND JAPANESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL HOLD TALKS PREPARATORY TO A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE MARGINS OF THE UNGA IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

CENTRAL AMERICA

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8. GREMITSKIKH CHARACTERIZED THE U.S.-SOVIET EXPERTS TALKS ON CENTRAL AMERICA IN LONDON AS "CONSTRUCTIVE" AND "FRUITFUL". HE NOTED POSITIVE CHANGES IN U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA. HE URGED NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-NICARAGUAN RELATIONS.

9. LENINGRAD MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MATLOCK

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